



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
**FIRST OF TWO CONVICTED WARRENSBURG MEN
SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Warrensburg, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Today's sentencing is part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

Clinton E. Downham, 26, of Warrensburg, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to five years and 10 months in federal prison without parole.

On Oct. 22, 2003, **Downham** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. He was the second defendant to plead guilty in the case. **Ambrose C. Milton**, 25, of Warrensburg, also pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, **Downham** and **Milton** admitted that they were in possession of a Taurus .357 Magnum revolver on March 28, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Milton** has a 1999 criminal felony conviction for second degree burglary and a 2001 criminal felony conviction for driving while intoxicated. **Downham** has a 1998 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance and a 1999 criminal felony conviction for second degree burglary.

Under federal statutes, Graves said, **Milton** may be subject to a maximum sentence of 10 years in federal prison without parole. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

The co-defendants were originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand

jury on June 18, 2003, in Kansas City.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Linda L. Sybrant. It was investigated by the Johnson County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow